

Information about Voluntary Assisted Dying

Voluntary assisted dying gives people who are suffering and dying, and who are eligible, the option of requesting medical assistance to end their lives. In Queensland, voluntary assisted dying is governed by the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 (the Act).

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Voluntary assisted dying is a medical procedure and has strict eligibility criteria.

You can discuss your eligibility with your GP or find out more at the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service:

Contact details

Opening hours: 8:30am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Phone: 1800 431 371

Email: qvadsupport@health.qld.gov.au

Our position

UnitingCare Queensland does not provide voluntary assisted dying as a service at our facilities.

While performing their duties, UnitingCare Queensland staff and Visiting Medical Practitioner will not be directly involved in medical acts intended to end a person's life under the voluntary assisted dying scheme. This includes health practitioners acting as a Coordinating Practitioner, Consulting Practitioner or Administering Practitioner as defined in the Act.

UnitingCare staff can be involved in providing information, facilitating processes related to voluntary assisted dying and continuing to provide clinical and personal care to you whether you are in your home or in one of our facilities.

The UnitingCare Queensland policy and practice response to voluntary assisted dying is guided by the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod's position and complies with the organisation's legal obligations under the Act as a non-participating entity.

Your rights at all services

UnitingCare Queensland upholds the rights and dignity of Queenslanders who choose to access voluntary assisted dying. People accessing voluntary assisted dying will continue being able to access other medical, clinical, spiritual and personal care and treatment at our facilities and in their home.

We know some of our clients, residents and patients may wish to explore this option and we respect their right to choose.

At residential aged care services and in the community

Blue Care and Pinangba services allow access to our facilities by an external doctor, nurse or other person providing voluntary assisted dying services. If we are providing support to you in your home, this will continue.

At hospitals

UnitingCare Queensland hospitals allow access to our facilities by an external doctor, nurse or other person providing voluntary assisted dying services.

There may be times when a patient is to be transferred to meet with a doctor, nurse or other person, or to undertake voluntary assisted dying. Our hospitals will facilitate this transfer in a way that prioritises the well-being of the person at all times.

At disability and other services

UnitingCare Queensland allows access to our services by an external doctor, nurse or other person providing voluntary assisted dying services. If you receive support in the home, we will continue to provide this.

What if I want to access Voluntary Assisted Dying?

If you decide to explore and access voluntary assisted dying, we will continue providing all regular services alongside a compassionate and pastoral response.

Your privacy

Privacy will be afforded to all people, their carers, family members, friends, and the healthcare workers supporting them. UnitingCare Queensland will only record, store, use and disclose personal information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Act. Access to UnitingCare Queensland's Privacy Policy is available at unitingcareqld.com.au/about-us/governance/privacy-policy.